WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for automating an approval process for a request for purchase, comprising:

receiving a search query for identifying content from a database;

identifying products available for purchase from the content in the database based on the search query;

receiving an indication to purchase at least one of the identified products;

creating a request for purchase for each of the at least one of the identified products;

transmitting the request for purchase to an approval organization; and

receiving an indication of whether the request for purchase was approved by the approval organization.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the creating of the request for purchase includes information regarding a cost for the purchase and information regarding the type of product.

3.   A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

determining to which of a plurality of approval organizations to transmit the request for purchase based upon at least one of the cost information and the product type information.

4.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

associating a national content standard with each piece of content stored in the database and with each product,

wherein the identifying of the products includes determining which products are associated with the national standard that is associated with the selected content.

5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising including the content identified in the search query in an instructional material.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein identifying products includes displaying an icon corresponding to each product available for purchase.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein receiving an indication to purchase includes:

clicking on the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products; and

dragging the icon into a workspace of a graphical editing tool in which an instructional material is being developed.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising:

establishing a link between the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products and a piece of content in the instructional material.

9. A computer readable medium operable on a computer system for automating an approval process for a request for purchase, the computer readable medium configured to:

automate an approval process for a request for purchase, comprising:

receive a search query for identifying content from a database;

identify products available for purchase from the content in the database based on the search query;

receive an indication to purchase at least one of the identified products;

create a request for purchase for each of the at least one of the identified products;

transmit the request for purchase to an approval organization; and

receive an indication of whether the request for purchase was approved by the approval organization.

10. A computer readable medium according to claim 9, wherein the request for purchase includes information regarding a cost for the purchase and information regarding the type of product.

11. A computer readable medium according to claim 10, further configured to determine to which of a plurality of approval organizations to transmit the request for purchase based upon at least one of the cost information and the product type information.

12. A computer readable medium according to claim 9, further configured to:

associate a national content standard with each piece of content stored in the database and with each product; and

determine which products are associated with the national standard that is associated with the selected content.

13. A computer readable medium according to claim 9, further configured to include the content identified in the search query in an instructional material.

14. A computer readable medium according to claim 13, further configured to display an icon corresponding to each product available for purchase.

15. A computer readable medium according to claim 14, wherein further configured to:

click on the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products; and

drag the icon into a workspace of a graphical editing tool in which an instructional material is being developed.

16.   A computer readable medium according to claim 15, further configured to establish a link between the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products and a piece of content in the instructional material.

17.   A computer system for automating an approval process for a request for purchase, the computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory which stores a plurality of instructions executed by the processor, the plurality of instructions configured to:

automate an approval process for a request for purchase, comprising:

receive a search query for identifying content from a database;

identify products available for purchase from the content in the database based on the search query;

receive an indication to purchase at least one of the identified products;

create a request for purchase for each of the at least one of the identified products;

transmit the request for purchase to an approval organization; and

receive an indication of whether the request for purchase was approved by the approval organization.

18.   A computer system according to claim 17, wherein the request for purchase includes information regarding a cost for the purchase and information regarding the type of product.

19.   A computer system according to claim 18, further comprising an instruction configured to determine to which of a plurality of approval organizations to transmit the request for purchase based upon at least one of the cost information and the product type information.

20.   A computer system according to claim 17, further comprising instructions configured to:

associate a national content standard with each piece of content stored in the database and with each product; and

determine which products are associated with the national standard that is associated with the selected content.

21.   A computer system according to claim 17, further comprising an instruction configured to include the content identified in the search query in an instructional material.

22.   A computer system according to claim 21, further comprising an instruction configured to display an icon corresponding to each product available for purchase.

23.   A computer system according to claim 22, wherein further comprising instructions configured to:

click on the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products; and

drag the icon into a workspace of a graphical editing tool in which an instructional material is being developed.

24.   A computer system according to claim 23, further comprising an instruction configured to establish a link between the icon corresponding to at least one of the identified products and a piece of content in the instructional material.